



annual report photography

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Letter From the Director

2011 was an exciting year at the Center. Our 757 species agreement, struck with the federal government over the summer to speed protection decisions for more than 700 struggling animals and plants, was a watershed in our organizational history and in the history of the Endangered Species Act. Under the terms of this ambitious and legally binding agreement, perhaps half as many species as have ever been protected under the Act will get new protection decisions over the coming six years — and that includes species in all 50 states, a wide array ranging from wolverines and walruses to New England cottontail rabbits and Hawaiian scarlet honeycreepers.

We had other major achievements this year too, despite a hostile Congress and a lack of environmental vision in the White House: We led a broad-based public campaign, supported by litigation, that pushed the administration to enact a 20-year ban on new uranium mining on 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon — saving an international natural icon and scores of endangered creatures from a toxic legacy. We won 2.2 million acres of protected critical habitat for species like the Cook Inlet beluga whale, we stopped the killing of wolves in Oregon, stopped Shell from drilling in the Arctic Ocean in summer 2011, beat back an “extinction rider” in Congress that would have slashed an already too-small budget for endangered species protection, and successfully defended the polar bear’s legally protected status from interests that wanted that protection stripped.

In all of this, we depended on your support. My deepest thanks.



Kierán Suckling
Executive Director

New Hope for 757 Species

In summer 2011 the Center for Biological Diversity did something extraordinary:

We struck a far-reaching settlement deal with the U.S. government to speed up protection decisions for more than 700 plants and animals by 2018. That's *more than half*

the total species that have ever been protected under the Endangered Species Act, and the Center's uniquely enforceable, watertight agreement puts all these species on an unprecedented fast track to recovery.

From the time the earliest version of the

Act passed in 1966 until 2011 — that's 45 years — almost 1,400 species have received the powerful protections of the Act. Now, as a result of this agreement, *that number could increase by close to 50 percent*. Our settlement means that when the Endangered Species Act turns half a century old, it may well be shielding 2,000 species from extinction.

Because the Act is the strongest law in the country, and likely the world, for saving and recovering rare species, this result is a landmark in American biodiversity conservation. Very few creatures have ever gone extinct once they received the benefits of the Act's protection; the longer a species has the safeguards of the Act, the more likely it is to be moving away from the brink and toward eventual recovery (see "Recovery Successes," page 16).

The Center has taken legal action — in many cases filing scientific petitions, in other cases filing lawsuits, and sometimes doing both — to win the Act's protection for all of these 757 species. We have a history fighting for each and every one of them. So for all of us at the Center, and our supporters who made it possible, this settlement represents the culmination of two decades of intensive, strategic work

The landmark agreement set deadlines for protection decisions for 757 species, including the wolverine, Miami blue butterfly, scarlet honeycreeper and Pacific walrus.



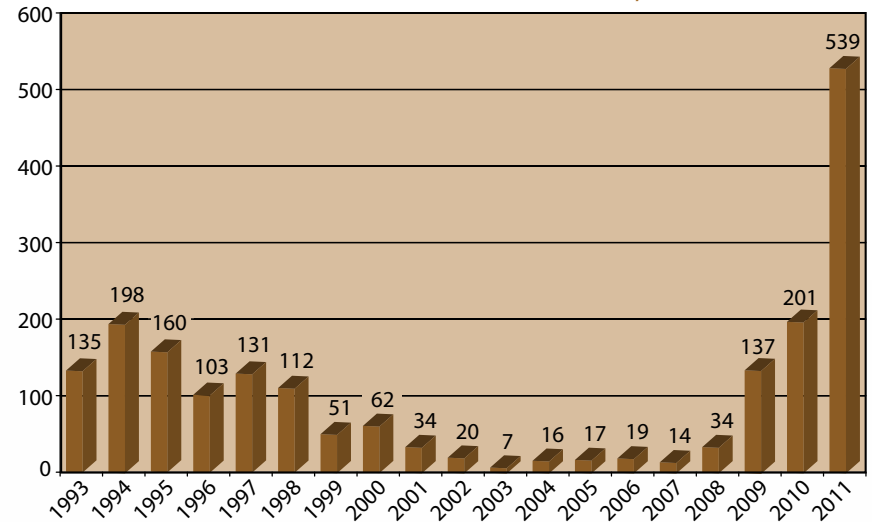
In 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made 539 “positive” decisions that a species warranted protection or needed more review. The vast majority of decisions were part of the Center’s agreement on 757 species.

to stop America’s most vulnerable animals and plants from winking out of existence.

Included in the agreement are the walrus, wolverine, Mexican gray wolf, Pacific fisher, New England cottontail rabbit, three species of sage grouse, scarlet Hawaiian honeycreeper,

California golden trout, Miami blue butterfly, Rio Grande cutthroat trout, 403 southeastern river species, 42 Great Basin springsnails and 32 Pacific Northwest

Positive Protection Decisions by Year



mollusks. Many of these suites of species had already received positive decisions in the listing process by the time this report went to press, including some species that made it to the finish line and were granted permanent protection — including the Ozark hellbender, laurel dace and a lovely flowering plant called the parachute penstemon.

We’ll be monitoring closely, from now till 2018 and beyond, to ensure this historic agreement is defended from political attacks and implemented fully.



Wild Wolf Country

For almost 90 years before fall 2011, no wild wolf had set foot in California since the last one was shot there in 1924. Nearly a century elapsed, and then — after a few wolves established a fledgling population in neighboring Oregon — one wolf, known as “OR-7” to bureaucracies and “Journey” to hopeful advocates, made a 1,000-mile migration away from its birth pack to cross the state line into California.

As soon as Journey and his radio collar crossed that border, the Center for Biological Diversity filed a petition

to give gray wolves endangered status under California law. Our swift move was needed: Even with just one animal in the state, and despite the fact that abundant wolf habitat still exists in the vast reaches of California, livestock producers instantly sounded a shrill alarm, vowing to kill any wolf they found. We’re devoting ourselves to preventing that killing and promoting a safe haven for wolves in California, because soon — for the first time in most of our lives — wolves could have a chance to survive and thrive all along the West Coast again, where they lived for millennia before people exterminated them.

While West Coast wolves made historic headway, wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains continue to suffer losses under state hunting and trapping plans after Congress stripped their federal protections in April 2011. The Center went to court the day after the wolf-killing budget rider was passed. Although the judge was sympathetic to our arguments and doubted the constitutionality of that rider, he reluctantly upheld the delisting in August. With a coalition of allies, we continue to fight for these wolves and against the opportunistic removal, by politicians, of species’ scientifically determined and legally granted protections. We’re actively pursuing a plan to recover wolves across the country.

The arrival of a gray wolf in California prompted the Center to file for statewide protections there and push even harder to bring wolves back to the West Coast.



Also in 2011, along with partners, we filed a second scientific petition to protect Alaska's Alexander Archipelago wolves — near-black wolves that roam the Tongass National Forest and which we've also worked to protect through our long-term Tongass advocacy. In the drier, warmer forests of the Southwest, where a 1990 Center court case led to Mexican gray wolves' reintroduction, we also got good news among the mixed news for wolves this year: Southwestern wolves' population increased, with more pups being born in the wild. We're following that first regional reintroduction year after year, case after case, by helping wolves survive and re-colonize the wildest parts of the country. From the Northeast to Alaska and the border with Mexico, from the Great Lakes to the Rockies and West Coast, we believe wolves are crucial to making sure American wilderness exists in centuries to come.



member spotlight
Karen Olch

Karen Olch was the kind of child who knew all the creatures in her backyard and took an early interest in nature's most vulnerable species. Today, as an adult who works with birds of prey at Cascades Raptor Center in Oregon, she has a special affection for nature's top predators. Karen believes wolves evoke "wild" in every sense of the word. "When I heard wolves howl for the first time, it was indescribable and made me so happy, knowing they were out there somewhere," Karen says. Wolves, though, have a complicated history in the West, especially after European settlers nearly drove them extinct. But now wolves — and importantly, along the West Coast — are making a comeback. The Center is there to make sure wolves and other top-tier predators are protected so they can play their vital roles in creating healthy, balanced ecosystems. Karen recently began generously supporting the Center for its efforts in protecting wolves and other species. The Center, she says, is a "get-down-to-business organization with the highest level of integrity and dedication that does what needs to be done, without a lot of fanfare, to protect endangered species and the places they inhabit."

We rely almost entirely on member gifts & private foundations to fund the Center.

Learn more and join at: <http://biologicaldiversity.org/support>

Protected Lands and Waters

More than 11,000 square miles were proposed as protected critical habitat for Hawaiian monk seals in 2011. The proposal responds to a 2008 petition by the Center and allies to protect beaches and coastal waters for critically endangered monk seals — among the rarest marine mammals in the world, with a population of about 1,000. Some 3,000 acres of habitat were protected for the thread-leaved brodiaea (right).

The Endangered Species Act directs habitat to be protected to save and recover rare animals and plants.

Because of the powerful role these landscapes and waterscapes play, they function as preserves that have to be managed to promote the survival of endangered species. Federal agencies cannot condone any actions within “critical habitat” that will impair its capacity to help endangered species recover. Unfortunately, the government routinely neglects its obligation to set aside critical habitat unless compelled to do so by citizen suits.

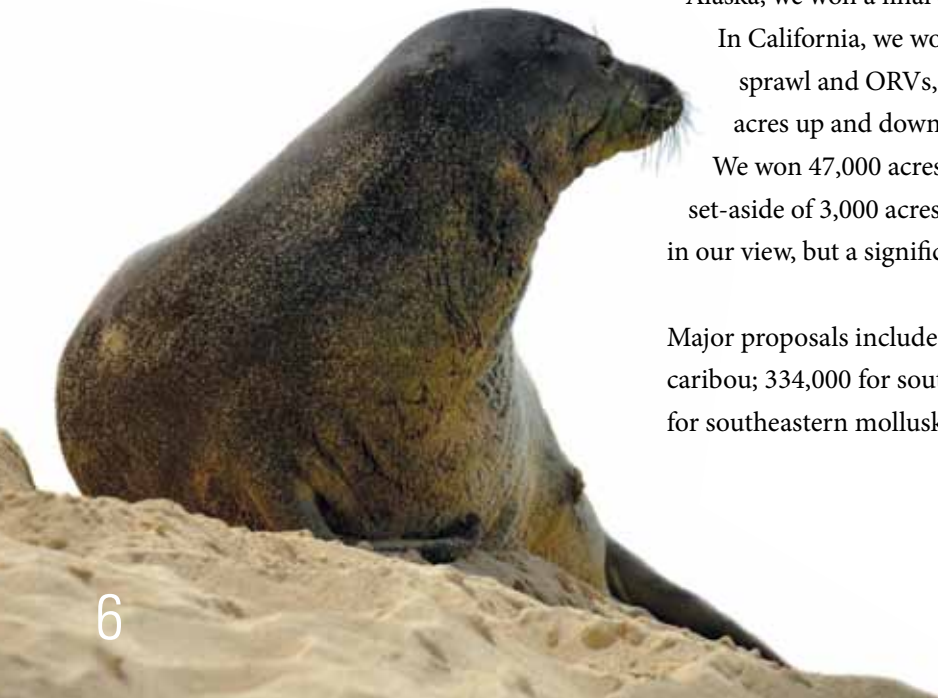
The Center for Biological Diversity was the first organization to discover the remarkable power of the Act’s habitat mandate and has led the nation in the designation of critical habitat for more than two decades since. Our record securing critical habitat for endangered species is unparalleled; we’ve now successfully pushed the federal government to set aside 220 million acres of critical habitat as well as protect more than 500 threatened and endangered species.

In 2011 we had several strategic victories on critical habitat, winning final protection of more than 2.2 million acres and proposed critical habitat for 9 million more. In Alaska, we won a final designation of 2 million acres for Cook Inlet belugas.

In California, we won 99,000 acres for arroyo toads threatened by urban sprawl and ORVs, among other destructive forces; we also won 90,000 acres up and down the West Coast for black abalone threatened by wasting disease and global warming.

We won 47,000 acres for tiger salamanders being driven toward extinction by development and achieved a set-aside of 3,000 acres for a beautiful, purple-flowered plant called the thread-leaved brodiaea — not enough, in our view, but a significant improvement over the plant’s previous designation of 597 acres.

Major proposals include the equivalent of 7 million acres for Hawaiian monk seals; 375,000 for woodland caribou; 334,000 for southwestern willow flycatchers; 221,000 for Choctaw beans; and hundreds of thousands for southeastern mollusks.



2 Million Acres for Great White Whales

After more than a decade fighting for the beluga whales of Alaska's Cook Inlet — and despite the powerful, well-funded opposition of both the state and vested industry interests — the Center won a final, definitive designation of almost 2 million acres of protected critical habitat for these charismatic and rare marine animals in spring 2011. The habitat protection will help repel threats to the belugas that include industrial and oil development, pollution, sewage discharge, gillnets, ship traffic, sonar devices and underwater seismic blasting.

With our partners, we petitioned for the belugas' Endangered Species Act protection for the first time in 1999 and for a second time in 2006. When the federal government dragged its feet, we sued twice to force it to obey the law and throw a lifeline to the whales, both in 2000 and 2008. When the state added insult to injury and belugas were singled out as targets by then-Gov. Sarah Palin, who filed suit to remove their protection, we intervened against that vengeful position in 2010 — and in 2011 Palin's specious suit was finally thrown out by a judge.

The 3,000-square-mile beluga protection zone is crucial to the future of the remaining 300 or 400 white whales still eking out a living in Alaska's most populous, fastest-growing watershed. We're now pushing the government to develop a recovery plan for the Inlet's belugas, since the threats to these vulnerable mammals are too pressing and complex to be addressed by critical habitat alone.



The Center won nearly 2 million acres of protected critical habitat for Alaska's Cook Inlet beluga whales in spring 2011 — an area larger than Delaware. We're now pushing the government to develop a recovery plan for the inlet's white whales, of which only 300 or 400 survive.

Victory for the Grand Canyon

Starting in 2008, spurred by a uranium boom, the Center worked intensively to prevent new mining of uranium around Grand Canyon National Park. Our lawsuit that year, opposing the

Kaibab National Forest's green-light of a plan for uranium drilling at 39 sites just south of the park, won what lawyers call a "complete victory," halting the project that April and anchoring our future work to protect the canyon from the toxic legacy of uranium mining.

In 2011 that work — which consisted of coalition-building, policy advocacy, litigation and energetic media outreach — resulted in a federal proposal to protect 1 million acres of public land around Grand Canyon National Park from new uranium mining. That plan was undermined by the state, when it issued air and water-pollution permits to new mines, and by Republican lawmakers, who tried unsuccessfully in October to overturn the feds' temporary ban and open those 1 million acres of public lands to mining.

Still, we kept the pressure on, among other actions filing an appeal in November — with American Indian tribes and other conservation groups — in the 9th Circuit Court challenging the reopening of a uranium mine near Grand Canyon National Park without updating decades-old environmental reviews. And a few days into the new year, our years of work paid off when the Interior Department finalized the decision we'd fought so hard to promote: to protect 1 million acres of public land around Grand Canyon National Park from new uranium mining for the next 20 years.

Years of work to protect the Grand Canyon region paid off in 2011 with the Interior Department's 20-year ban on new uranium mining across 1 million acres around the canyon.



Leading the Fight Against Keystone XL



Center staff and supporters (including our mascot Frostpaw and author Barbara Kingsolver) joined thousands of people protesting plans to build the Keystone XL pipeline. We were also among the first to file legal challenges to the project.

The high-profile, 1,700-mile Keystone XL pipeline was a rallying point for the environmental community in 2011, leading to the arrest of more than 1,000 peaceful protesters outside the White House. Thousands of Center for Biological Diversity supporters signed up for a second demonstration, in fall, and a few weeks later President Obama announced he would reject the pipeline proposal.

Keystone XL would carry up to 35 million gallons of bituminous oil every day from Canada's tar sands, one of the dirtiest energy sources in the world, to Texas. It would represent a massive investment in fossil fuels just when we desperately need to phase them out, and would directly threaten at least 20 rare or endangered species, from whooping cranes to pallid sturgeons — as well as pristine wildlife habitat and a key Midwest water source.

The Center led the legal opposition to Keystone XL, filing a lawsuit in Nebraska in October because — even though the pipeline had yet to be approved — work crews were already mowing 100 miles of native prairie grasses and capturing and removing endangered species. We expanded the suit later that month to challenge bogus claims that spills from the pipeline would be unlikely.

Despite the president's rejection of the pipeline early in 2012, seen as a resounding victory for conservationists, Republicans in Congress are still pushing to see Keystone XL go through — whether in full or piece by piece. Backed by Big Oil, they like to claim that Obama's rejection of Keystone XL would cost tens of thousands of jobs — though in reality it would result in only about 20 permanent, operational jobs in the United States.

Halting Offshore Drilling in the Arctic

The Center and our Alaskan allies have, over the past few years, successfully blocked offshore oil development in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas through a series of lawsuits. In 2009, a federal court threw out the Bush administration's five-year plan for offshore development because that plan ignored the Arctic's environmental sensitivity. In 2010 we won a court order stopping drilling in the Chukchi Sea because of poor environmental review and fought off an extremely risky Arctic BP project called "Liberty;" and in 2011 we successfully challenged Shell's air permits, stopping looming summer drilling. As a result, Shell Oil — slated to drill in the Arctic every year since 2007 — has not yet stuck its drills in the water.



Bearded and ringed seals, along with polar bears and walruses, are threatened by oil drilling in the Arctic. The Center and allies have successfully blocked offshore oil development for years in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas — but the struggle to save the Arctic continues.

But the pressure continues to escalate. In September 2011, we and our allies challenged Shell's expanded Beaufort Sea drilling plan for 2012. In October, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released a decision saying that poor environmental review wasn't a good enough reason to prevent oil and gas leasing in the Chukchi — and soon after that, the Obama government released a new five-year plan for offshore oil development opening both the Beaufort and the Chukchi to drilling. We challenged Shell's air permits for drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas in summer 2012.

The struggle to save the Arctic Ocean is far from over. Shell's oil-drilling plans for this year are even more extreme than previous schemes. The Center and our many partners committed to stopping the despoiling of Arctic waters continue to battle it out in court, while at the same time pressing, on a policy level, for a permanent halt on offshore drilling in all American waters, beginning in Alaska.

Rising to Defend Polar Bears



The Center won an important legal victory for the polar bear, defeating an effort by the oil industry and the state of Alaska to strip its hard-won protection under the Endangered Species Act.

2011 saw several Center victories helping to protect polar bears from oil and gas development as well as from global warming. Crucially, we secured a court decision that upheld the bear's "threatened" listing under the Endangered Species Act, dismissing challenges to the bear's legally protected status by the state of Alaska and other, chiefly fossil-fuel, interests. Along with our allies, we prevented Arctic oil drilling for another summer by stopping Shell from sinking its drill bits into polar bear critical habitat in the Beaufort Sea. And we intervened in an oil industry lawsuit seeking to strip the bear's 120-million-acre "critical habitat" protection.

We also initiated an effort to help save Canada's polar bears, filing a formal challenge over Canada's failure to protect the bears under its Species At Risk Act. Our challenge was filed under an environmental component of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, designed to monitor the three signatory countries' compliance with their own environmental laws. In the first days of 2012, we filed a formal request with the U.S. Department of the Interior to initiate trade sanctions against Canada for violating the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears — a treaty among the world's five polar bear nations — when it quadrupled the number of polar bears to be hunted from the already-declining Western Hudson Bay population.

Despite a Center suit against Shell drilling in polar bear habitat in the Beaufort Sea, in August 2011 the Obama administration said it would allow Shell drilling to begin in summer 2012 — threatening polar bears, bowhead whales and other Arctic animals. When this report went to press, we were fighting that decision with a mass mobilization, petition drive and citizen video campaign to pressure the federal government to reverse its course and say no to drilling in the irreplaceable Arctic.



2011: A Banner Year for

ENDANGERED SPECIES

- We achieved the largest agreement in history to speed up protections for animals and plants under the Endangered Species Act, covering 757 of the nation's most urgently threatened and least protected species.
- Secured Endangered Species Act protection for North Pacific loggerhead sea turtles.
- Stopped two Oregon wolves from being killed by the state.
- Helped defeat an "extinction rider" in Congress that would have demolished funding for new species listings and habitat protection.
- Fought off Alaska's court challenge to Endangered Species Act protection for Cook Inlet beluga whales.

OVERPOPULATION

- We launched a new national campaign, 7 Billion and Counting, publicizing the link between human overpopulation and species extinction.
- Gave away 100,000 free Endangered Species Condoms through 1,000 volunteers in all 50 states.
- Produced a report highlighting the 10 U.S. species most threatened by human population growth.
- Grew volunteer network to more than 30,000.

WILD LANDS

- We helped secure a 20-year ban on new uranium mining across 1 million acres around the Grand Canyon.
- After a decade-long fight, won a court order increasing protections for more than 40 threatened and endangered species on four national forests in Southern California.
- Generated 30,000 comments from supporters that caused the EPA to halt plans for a massive Appalachian coal mine.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- We won a court decision upholding the polar bear's "threatened" listing.
- Prevented Shell from drilling for oil in polar bear critical habitat in the Beaufort Sea in summer 2011.
- Stopped plans for White Pine Energy Station, which would've been one of the largest, dirtiest coal plants in the West.
- Launched our Clean Air Cities campaign to rally cities nationwide to sign a resolution in support of clean air and a healthy climate.
- Filed a lawsuit to halt illegal construction of the Keystone XL pipeline in Nebraska and joined dozens of groups around the country in organizing national opposition to the controversial project.

Saving Species

TOXICS

- We filed the most comprehensive legal action ever brought under the Endangered Species Act to protect more than 200 species from hundreds of pesticides.
- Submitted more than 43,000 comments from Center activists to support a petition asking the EPA to ban the chemical atrazine, which deforms frogs and harms human health.
- Landed a federal promise to clean up toxic lead paint on Midway Atoll that kills up to 10,000 Laysan albatross chicks every year.

CRITICAL HABITAT

- Cook Inlet beluga whale: 2 million finalized acres in Alaska
- Arroyo toad: 98,366 acres in Southern California
- Black abalone: 89,600 acres along the California shore
- California tiger salamander: 47,383 acres in California
- Thread-leaved brodiaea: 2,947 acres in Southern California
- Proposed critical habitat for other species: 9 million acres, from Hawaii to northern Idaho to Mississippi

REACHING OUT TO THE PEOPLE

- Center supporters took 1.3 million online actions in 2011 to save wildlife and wild places.
- Our new Species Finder Android app launched, containing instantly accessible information on more than 1,000 imperiled plants and animals.
- Our endangered species ringtones hit their half-millionth download.
- We launched a new interactive map on the web for people to find endangered species.



Celebrating the Endangered

The Center's executive director testified in Congress this year defending the Endangered Species Act from congressional attacks. Detractors make outlandish and counterfactual claims about its effectiveness, but as the Center showed the House Natural Resources Committee with hard data, the Act is a success by any measure: 99.9 percent of species with its protection have been kept from extinction and, where measured, 93 percent of protected species are moving toward recovery.

Ideological critics complain that the Act is failing because only 1 percent of endangered species have recovered and been removed from the list. But these critics fail to explain why they think more species should have recovered by now: Pulling

species back from the brink of extinction isn't a job with overnight results. On average, recovery plans written for endangered species predict they'll need 42 years after their listing to be recovered; and the average time that one of the 1,400 species now protected by the Act has had that protection is a mere 21 years.

Hundreds of listed species have strong recovery trends and are not slated to reach full recovery for several decades. Their progress clearly indicates the Act works.

With the help of the Act, whooping cranes have increased from just 54 birds in 1967 to 599 in 2011; the Hudson River population of shortnose sturgeon increased from about 12,000 fish in 1979 to about 56,000 in 1996; Hawaiian geese increased from 300 birds

The Endangered Species Act is saving Florida panthers. Though it's still critically endangered, the panther has increased from just 40 individuals in the 1980s to 130 in 2010.



Species Act

in 1980 to 1,700 in 2006; Florida panthers, though still critically endangered, increased from a maximum of 40 individuals in the 1980s to 130 by 2010; and Utah prairie dogs numbers grew from 3,300 in 1973 to 11,300 in 2010. This year the Lake Erie water snake was taken off the endangered list because of its recovery; the wood stork recovered sufficiently to be ready for downlisting from “endangered” to “threatened”; and the Catalina Island fox, which had fallen to a low of only 100 individuals about a decade ago, has rebounded to 1,500 individuals following its listing in 2004.



Whooping cranes, federally protected since the 1960s, have grown from just 54 birds in 1967 to 599 in 2011. They're one of hundreds of species on the path toward recovery because of the Endangered Species Act.



member spotlight

Bill Collins

When endangered species need a voice, Bill Collins knows he can depend on the Center to provide one. Recently, when his local city council was considering protections for the Western snowy plover — a shorebird whose sandy beach habitat is easily disrupted by human activity — a Center representative was there to provide expert testimony.

It's that kind of dedication that led Bill to support the Center and include it in his will, so the critical, no-nonsense work of saving threatened and endangered birds, fish and other species can go on. The Center has a long history of fighting for species large and small, with a modest budget and a passionate staff willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. “With the Center, there's no glossy magazines, no calendars, no address stickers, just cost-effective advocacy for nature,” Bill says. “I've cut back on supporting organizations that seem to spend more resources raising money than raising hell.”

Leaving a legacy of support for the Center will keep us fighting for endangered species for decades to come. Find out more and make the Center part of your estate planning here: <http://biologicaldiversity.org/legacy>

A Race to Save Amphibians and Reptiles



Amphibians and reptiles, such as the flat-tailed horned lizard (top) and the California red-legged frog, are among the most vulnerable species on Earth. The Center is dramatically ramping up its work to save herpetofauna from extinction.

To protect amphibians and reptiles, which are disappearing from the Earth at a speed unrivaled by other species, the Center recently inaugurated an unrivaled campaign for herpetofauna led by an attorney dedicated solely to these animals and their welfare. Under her leadership our campaign filed individual petitions in 2011 to secure Endangered Species Act protection for boreal toads, eastern diamondback rattlesnakes and 20 species of freshwater turtles. We undertook the unprecedented and labor-intensive task of drafting a highly ambitious, 300-page petition to protect more than 50 species of amphibians and reptiles, including six turtles, eight snakes, three toads, four frogs, 10 lizards and 24 salamanders. This superpetition has a scheduled filing date in summer 2012.

We launched lawsuits against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to produce recovery plans for California tiger salamanders and mountain yellow-legged frogs, and also over a plan to dredge wetlands next to Mississippi gopher frog's last remaining breeding pond. Working with two prominent herpetologists to achieve protection for the narrow-headed garter snake, we submitted a status report that demonstrates the Arizona snake is rapidly disappearing and needs Endangered Species Act protection. We submitted numerous comment letters to agencies to save salamanders and frogs and conducted, along with young activists, an energetic campaign to convert brutal rattlesnake roundups in Georgia to kill-free wildlife festivals — winning an exciting victory in the new year that transformed one of the two remaining “roundups” in the state.

With allies we launched the Global Amphibian Blitz, a citizen science project curated by a team of scientists that allows amateur naturalists around the world to submit their amphibian photographs along with dates and GPS locations. And finally, after offering a financial reward for any sightings of South Florida rainbow snake — which we fear may have prematurely been declared extinct — we joined a field expedition to search for the snake ourselves.

Preventing Wildlife Poisoning

To reduce the dangers posed by pesticides and other toxics to wildlife, and especially rare and vulnerable species, the Center in 2011 filed the most comprehensive legal action ever brought under the Endangered Species Act: We filed suit against the EPA for its failure to consult with federal wildlife agencies over the impacts of hundreds of pesticides, known to be harmful, on more than 200 endangered and threatened species.

We joined more than 130 groups in 35 states in writing a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency asking it to use all the tools at its disposal to protect public health and imperiled wildlife from hundreds of harmful pesticides; and we submitted more than 43,000 comments from Center supporters asking the EPA to ban atrazine, a chemical that deforms frogs and harms human health. In California, we sued the federal government over its failure to protect endangered California red-legged frogs from more than 60 pesticides.

Finally, following a Center notice of intent to sue, we landed a promise from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to clean up toxic lead paint on Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean that kills up to 10,000 Laysan albatross chicks every year and threatens endangered Laysan ducks.

Lead and other toxics threaten wildlife around the country, especially rare species like endangered California condors. The Center is ramping up its work to save species from pesticides, lead and toxics.



7 Billion and Counting

The Center's overpopulation program launched a new nationwide campaign in 2011, 7 Billion and Counting, to mark the birth on Halloween of the 7 billionth person on the planet. 7B publicizes the link between our skyrocketing human population and the ongoing mass extinction of other animals and plant species — a problem many groups have shied away from discussing out of anxiety over the political intricacies of the conversation.

The Center believes that reducing population growth is key to keeping the world livable — not only for other creatures but for our own quality of life. The United States, for example, has the world's third largest population after China and India and the highest fertility rate of any industrialized nation. We're pushing for policies to keep population growth sustainable by empowering women and making birth control and education universally accessible.



This year, with the help of more than 1,000 enthusiastic and active volunteers, we distributed 100,000 of our resoundingly popular, and free, Endangered Species Condoms — handed out in all 50 states. We produced and publicized a report highlighting the 10 American species most urgently threatened by overpopulation. On New Year's Eve, we launched the "Hump Smarter Hotline," an irreverent toll-free number about keeping passions in check for the sake of species. And we published the first full year of our monthly electronic newsletter, *Pop X*, along with a string of short videos documenting our organizer's expeditions to places where human population growth is pushing endangered species toward extinction.

Stopping the Extinction Rider



In July 2011 the Center for Biological Diversity, our partners, and thousands of supporters worked intensively to stop a disastrous budget-bill rider from being passed by Congress. Our fight was critical, as the rider would have stopped all federal spending on Endangered Species Act protections for new species and habitat. In the end, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 224-202 to strip the devastating “extinction rider” from the Interior Department’s appropriation bill.

The rider, part of a concerted campaign by far-right ideologues in Congress to undermine federal law in general and federal wildlife protection in specific, would have spelled disaster for hundreds of animals and plants across the country that require the protection of the Endangered Species Act to survive and recover.

By publishing op-eds in outlets like *Huffington Post* on the eve of the vote, rallying more than 50,000 of our supporters to write their senators demanding that they oppose the rider, and working intensively on advocacy in Washington, the Center and our allies in the conservation community were able to push through a narrow but decisive victory. Our major victory for endangered species couldn’t have gone forward without help from both parties, showing that there were politicians on both sides of the aisle willing to step up and defend the Endangered Species Act: Among those mobilized to vote against the devastating rider were 36 Republicans.

The Center and other conservation groups won a major victory in Congress by defeating the “extinction rider,” which would have stopped the government from spending money to protect new species under the Endangered Species Act or to protect critical habitat for species like the endangered mountain caribou.

Clean Air and Our Cities

The federal Clean Air Act, a groundbreaking law that gave much of the world a model for better air-pollution control, has protected the air Americans breathe for almost half a century now. It's directly responsible for saving many thousands of lives and broadly improving public health — while at the same time cutting costs. It's also the best law on the books for cutting greenhouse gas emissions fast: The Clean Air Act has unique potential to curb climate change.

But all the Act's rules — administered by the EPA — are under attack from the fossil fuel industry and its allies in Congress, constantly working to slow down and weaken the EPA's use of the Act. So the Center is campaigning actively, through litigation, policy advocacy and educational media, to defend those rules, which help protect our air and climate and could do even more. Thanks in part to our work, the tail end of 2010 brought a court denial of an industry attempt to halt implementation of some Clean Air Act rules, meaning regulation of greenhouse gas pollution from the biggest industrial polluters began on Jan. 2, 2011.

We're actively working on local, regional and national levels to promote the use of the Act: Our Climate Law Institute, for instance, launched "Clean Air Cities" in 2011, a nationwide campaign rallying cities around the country to call on the Obama administration to use the Act quickly and powerfully to reduce carbon pollution.

From October through December 2011, we earned resolutions supporting the Clean Air Act as a crucial tool against global warming from nine cities: Albany, N.Y.; Berkeley, Santa Monica, Arcata, and Richmond, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.; Pittsburgh, Pa., Tucson, Ariz.; and Boone, N.C. In early 2012, as this report went to press, more and more cities were signing up. By the end of 2012, our goal is to have resolutions passed by at least one city in each of the 50 states.

Cities around the country, including Seattle, have joined the Center's Clean Air Cities campaign, which calls on President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency to use the Clean Air Act to cut carbon pollution and reduce the risk of catastrophic climate change.



Innovation and Creative Media

The Center continues to be an innovator in environmental media generation, producing more than 1,000 media hits every month, and continues to achieve more earned media per budget dollar than any of our conservation peers. We mobilized hundreds of thousands of supporters to take action on behalf of wildlife, wild places and a healthy climate this year and used inexpensive but high-impact media tools to bring attention to campaigns like 7 Billion and Counting, our energetic campaign on the link between human overpopulation and species extinction.



This year we gave away 100,000 free Endangered Species Condoms, garnering high-profile praise in *The New York Times*, where we're regularly featured — as well as in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post* and numerous other major news outlets. We launched several huge video ads in New York City's Times Square, inspiring activists around the country to host events highlighting the overpopulation-extinction link. We also unveiled a new interactive map that offers information on endangered species in every county in the United States.

We draw attention to key issues and events through numerous press releases and other outreach materials — in 2011, we became regular op-ed columnists in Huffington Post, for instance. We also reach out through nonprint media to expand our audience and bring information to a younger demographic. In August we launched a new app for Android cell phones called "Species Finder," which allows users to call up a comprehensive list of all threatened and endangered species in whatever county users are passing through. Our Endangered Species ringtones closed in on a half-million downloads in 2011, and our lifelike and charismatic polar bear mascot, Frostpaw, was readily visible at the nationally publicized Keystone XL rally outside the White House.

A new mobile phone app from the Center allows users to find endangered species wherever they are in the United States with just a few finger taps. The Species Finder is our latest creative media project connecting people to nature.

Help for Four Forests of Southern California

Steelhead trout are among dozens of species that will benefit from a hard-won court decision in June 2011 to increase protections for wildlife in national forests in Southern California.



There are four national forests in Southern California — the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino — that together, with a combined area of more than 3.5 million acres, make up a varied and irreplaceable network of ecosystems, wildlife and plants of which many are found nowhere else on Earth. Not only do these stunning forests offer the best access to nature for millions of urban and suburban Californians and tourists, they're also home to almost 500 rare and vanishing species in need of special protection. Surrounded by an ever-expanding sea of urban sprawl, these four national forests are the last refuge for many Southern California plants and animals.

But the U.S. Forest Service has persisted for decades in mining these priceless public-heritage lands for their extractive resources — making its priorities destructive cattle grazing, oil and gas drilling and logging, and the construction of mile upon mile of roads and

transmission lines. Destructive ORV use and poor fire management have also hurt the four forests' endangered species; the Forest Service's 2005 management plans for the forests were deeply flawed, failing to protect either the forests or the creatures that live in them.

The Center's long fight to protect this Southern California landscape began with a 1998 lawsuit that produced a settlement requiring the Forest Service to update its forest management plans to offer more protection to rare and declining species. Along with our allies, we watched over the Service's changes to its management plans and pressed for stronger environmental protections over the next half-decade — even going so far as to develop our own rigorous, scientifically based alternative forest plan. In May 2005 we submitted a report identifying the forests' biodiversity hotspots, recommending a high level of protection for them.

But the Service's response was weak, so the Center led an appeal of the plans in 2006, filed suit against the Forest Service again in 2008 and had a win in 2009 when a federal

district court judge agreed with us that the management plans didn't do enough to protect the forests' wildest areas — 974,000 acres of roadless land.

And in June 2011, a court finally ordered increased protections for more than 40 embattled species on the four forests. The decision ordered new protective measures to be developed and put in place within six months, including new measures to prevent endangered species from being hurt or killed and interim protections for species and habitat while longer-term safeguards are being developed.

The many plants and animals that will benefit from our victory on the four forests include steelhead trout, southwestern willow flycatchers, California spotted owls, California condors — which are rebounding from a low of only 28 birds in the mid-1980s — California red-legged frogs and arroyo toads.

The Center has been fighting since 1998 to protect species, including the California spotted owl, that live in four national forests in Southern California. A judge's decision in 2011 required that new protective measures be put in place to safeguard more than 40 imperiled species.



The Ocean's Ancient Nomads

Sea turtles have survived since the age of the dinosaurs, and yet now are on the brink of winking out if we don't fight hard to stop their extinction.

The Center works ambitiously to give loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles new federal protections; our work to reduce fisheries bycatch has helped all North American sea turtles.



Loggerheads are particularly imperiled in the North Pacific Ocean, where they're geographically isolated and genetically different from loggerheads in the Atlantic, Indian and South Pacific oceans. In 2011, in response to two legal petitions by the Center and our allies, the National Marine Fisheries Service finally recognized the peril they're facing. The agency designated the North Pacific loggerhead sea turtle "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act, upgrading its status from the less-protective classification of "threatened."



We're working now to make sure loggerheads have protection and protected habitat in both the Pacific and Atlantic. In the Gulf of Mexico, in the wake of the BP oil-spill disaster after which a record 322 dead sea turtles were found on Gulf beaches, we and allies filed a notice of intent to sue the National Marine Fisheries Service if it didn't protect all endangered turtles in the region from entanglement and drowning in shrimp trawls. Also in 2011 a judge ruled positively in a separate suit by the Center and allies, calling on the Fisheries Service to protect imperiled sea turtles like loggerheads from death and injury from the Gulf's bottom longline fishery.

The Center won important new decisions for sea turtles in 2011, including stronger Endangered Species Act protections for loggerheads (top) and 40,000 square miles of protected habitat for leatherbacks along the West Coast.

Our campaign to save leatherback sea turtles — giant, champion swimmers with diving capabilities unmatched by other turtles — met with an exciting victory in the new year when, in the wake of two Center lawsuits, the National Marine Fisheries Service finally granted the turtle *40,000 square miles* (the equivalent of more than 25 million acres) of protected critical habitat off California, Oregon and Washington. It was the first critical habitat for leatherbacks designated in continental U.S. waters and the largest area ever set aside to protect sea turtle habitat in the United States or its territories.

member spotlight

Larry & Jackie Stern



Larry and Jackie Stern have always loved the ocean.

Jackie grew up on the Atlantic coast of Guyana and spent her summers in the rainforest; Larry grew up in Brooklyn's Sheepshead Bay and lived near the ocean in San Francisco before moving to Tucson. Years ago Larry, a neurologist, went back to school part-time to study marine biology at the University of Arizona and developed a particular interest in imperiled species in the Gulf of California - including the vaquita, a small harbor porpoise considered one of the world's most endangered cetaceans.

The Sterns are enthusiastic supporters of the Center, increasing their generous giving because of the "extraordinary dedication" of the staff and its use of litigation to raise public awareness and spur protection of some of the planet's rarest plants and animals. They're particularly inspired by the Center's Oceans program, which is tackling pollution, overfishing and ocean acidification threatening corals, otters, salmon, whales, oysters and scores of other marine species around the world.

*To learn more about joining the Center's Leadership Circle, please visit
<http://biologicaldiversity.org/leadership> or
call us toll-free (866)-357-3349 x 304.*

thank you, leadership circle

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foundation grants	\$ 2,175,000
membership and donations	4,478,375
total public support	6,653,375

revenue

legal returns	503,509
contracts	8,587
miscellaneous	37,861
investment income	14,140
total revenue	564,097
total support and revenue	7,217,472

expenses

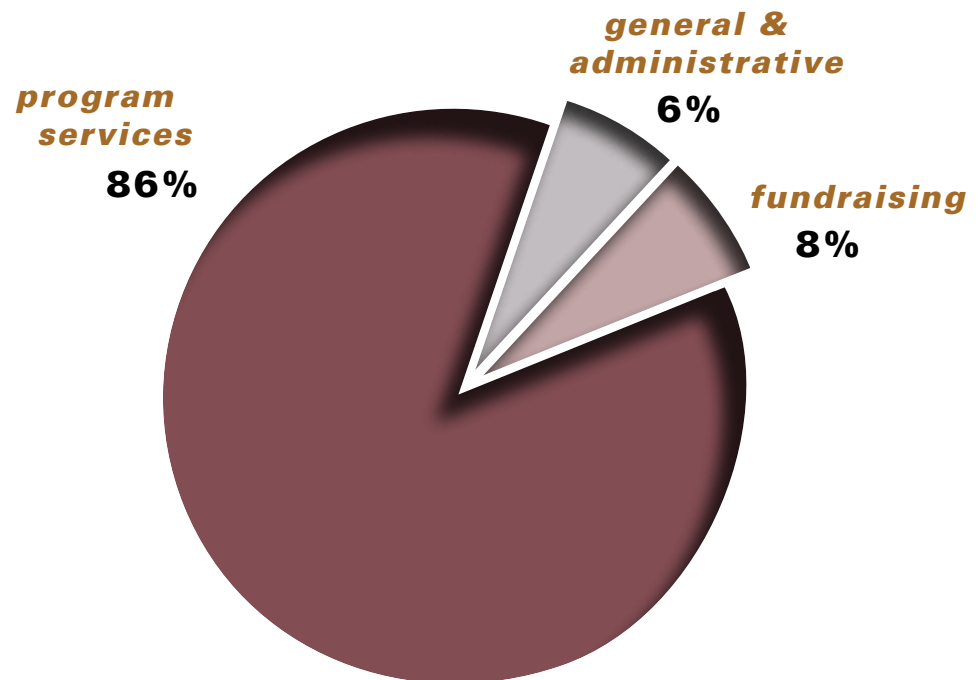
program services

endangered species	1,447,419
climate	931,183
public lands	1,811,536
international	145,147
oceans	611,377
urban wildlands	486,236
total program services	5,432,898 (86%)

supporting services

general and administrative	386,244 (6%)
fundraising	503,197 (8%)
total support services	889,441
total expenses	6,322,339

change in net assets	895,133
net assets, beginning of year	9,838,939
net assets, end of year	\$ 10,734,072



In 2011, the Center's supporters contributed more than \$7.2 million to our critical campaigns to protect imperiled wildlife and habitat.

True to our "biggest bang for the buck" reputation, we used your generous support more efficiently than ever. Last year, our highly effective use of funds resulted in 86 percent of all expenses going directly to support our conservation programs, earning us continued high marks from charity raters including "Best in America" by Independent Charities of America. What's behind our success? A rapidly growing, action-driven network of online supporters, who lend new force to our already large, loyal membership base, and the ability of our own dynamic, hardworking staff of 67 to achieve sweeping victories for hundreds of species around the country.